

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please make the following amendments:

Please cancel claims 2-4, 7, 10, and 14-17.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 as follows:

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1. **(Currently amended)** A method for aiding in the early detection and/or quantification of CNS (central nervous system) damage in an individual, said CNS damage being caused by benign primary brain tumors, malignant primary brain tumors, brain metastasis, hydrocephalus, subdural haematoma, and/or parasite derived cysts of the CNS; by invasion or metastasis of the CNS; by organisms; by anoxia or ischemia; by chemical agents; by physical agents; or by a combination of these mechanisms, said method comprising the following steps [step of determining the level of tau in said individual and comparing it to the level of tau in control healthy individuals].

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- (a) determining the level of tau in a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) sample obtained from said individual;
- (b) comparing the determined level of tau in the CSF sample obtained from said individual with a range of tau levels previously defined as characteristic for CSF samples obtained from control, healthy, individuals;
- (c) concluding from the comparison in step (b) whether said individual has suffered brain damage caused by benign primary brain tumors, by malignant primary brain tumors, by brain metastasis, by invasion or metastasis of the CNS, by anoxia or ischemia, by chemical agents, or by a combination of these mechanisms;
whereby a CSF level which is above the range previously defined as characteristic for CSF samples obtained from control healthy individuals is an indication that said individual has suffered brain damage.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

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5. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claims claim 1 [or 2] in which the CNS damage is cause caused by a benign primary brain tumor, a malignant primary brain tumor, or a brain metastasis, or a subdural haematoma.

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6 6. (Currently amended) A method according to [claims] claim 1 [or 2] in which the invasion or metastasis of the CNS is by leukemia, lymphoma or breast cancer.

7 7. (Canceled)

8 8. (Currently amended) A method according to [claims] claim 1 [or 2] in which the anoxia or ischemia is caused by stroke, by cerebral infarction, by cerebral hemorrhage, by thrombosis, by perinatal asphyxia, by Binswanger disease or by vasculitis.

9 9. (Currently amended) A method according to [claims] claim 1 [or 2] in which the chemical agent is gene therapy, pharmaceuticals, chemotherapy or exposure to chemical compounds.

10 10. (Canceled)

11 11. (Currently amended) A method according to [claims] claim 1 [or 2] in which CNS damage is detected and/or quantified in order to evaluate the effect of a certain treatment on said CNS damage.

12-17 12.-17. (Canceled)